

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held June 23, 1986.

In attendance were:

Bea Jaffe	Ron Jarrell	Tony Colgan (NV)
Sally Hamburger	Susan Rohrbach	Thomas E. Colgan
Elvie Grimaldi	Edward Rohrbach	Charles F. Salkeld
Don Berman	Sylvia Hilliard	Eleanor Bratten
John Grimaldi	Robert Hilliard	Michael K. Curtis
Rae Gerstine	George Kazan	Drew Burslem
Bernard Kleban	Cy Liberman	Harvey H. Neal
June Kleban	Frank Akutowicz	Joan W. Colgan
Temma Tanzer	Lee Starr	Cecilia Vore
Delphine Goslin	Clara Dossett	Bunni Hurlong
Shaul Gladstone	Maryellen S. Jobson	E. J. Hurlong
Rowena Austin	Aaron S. Hamburger	Elizabeth Varley Walker
John Austin	Carolyn Liberman	Larry C. Walker
Helen Vinson	William R. Bailey	Molca Budin
Cosette Morley	Sally Thurston	Ron Enie
Pat Pyle	Lauretta Gallagher	D. Holcomb
Hugh Roberts	Andrew Gallagher	R. Holcomb
Arlene Davis	Marianne Cinaglia	Frank Young (NV)
Fran Trench	Bertha W. Brooks	Sharon Young
Amy Potter Cook	Miriam H. Donovan	Paul Thompson
Warren E. Davis	Jean K. Brachman	Alan Burslem
Marge Roberts	Mary E. Irons	Carl Falco
John Hewlett	Ethel G. Monfort	S. R. Moore
Woodrow Vandever	Bernie Brachman	J. D. McCarty
Alex Sykulski	Alice K. Isaacs	Tim Colgan
Gene Shaw	Milton Isaacs	A. Barnes King
Leon Tanzer	Barbara Fenske	Connie Wright McKinney
Patricia Press	James Schwaber	Naomi Clark
Bill Press	Joe Patterson	Maria Burslem
Miriam Berd	Pat Patterson	Lisa D. Taylor (NV)
Mamie Woolery	Ruth Estes	
Sarah Tanzer	Alida Fish (NV)	

In the absence of a Town Assembly Chairman, the meeting was convened by the Town Assembly Secretary, Sarah Hamburger.

The rules of the meeting being suspended, the first order of business was the election of a Town Assembly chairman.

Nominees: Michael Curtis, William Press. Paper ballots were distributed by the Registration Committee.

Minutes of the March Town Assembly were approved with one correction. The amount of the garbage contract reported by the Civic Committee on p. 160 was \$38,000, not \$58,000.

Communications:

- Letter of thanks received from Anna Ponte for Town Assembly condolences on the death of her son, Vincent.
- Phone call received from Vera Berk reporting that she and John are doing well and hope to return to Arden in the future.

Committee Reports

Trustees - Shaul Gladstone

Sally Hamburger, while receiving over 66% of the votes cast

for new Trustee, nonetheless fell 14 votes short of the required number for confirmation. This was largely because so few votes were cast, far less than the number in the \$10,000 Montessori/Baldini matter. With this in mind, the Trustees have decided not to request another referendum until the Fall when most vacations are over.

The Trustees met with the Board of Assessors to explain the many reasons why a Land Rent method proposed by Temma Tanzer cannot be adopted. A detailed answer to Mrs. Tanzer's proposal, prepared with the benefit of advice from the Village's attorney, will be presented at whichever Town Meeting considers the proposal.

A draft financial report for the fiscal year ended March 24, 1986 is in the hands of the Auditing Committee. Bank balance as of May 31, 1986 was \$184,729.66.

Discussion:

Several residents questioned why the Trustees were not willing to nominate Bill Press for Trustee. Shaul responded that this is not a matter for debate in the Town Assembly. This is not a popularity contest, the Trustees do not propose a candidate they think can win but one who will protect the Deed of Trust.

Assessors - Temma Tanzer

Bill Press' resignation was accepted with regret. The Board missed his ideas and calm guidance. Fortunately, his place was well filled by the runner-up candidate, John Hewlett. The Board elected Ron Enie Chairman and Secretary. Along with the other members of the committee (Ruth Holcomb, Temma Tanzer, Gene Shaw, Bernie Brachman, and Harold Monfort) six regular meetings and two public hearings were held.

Ruth Holcomb and Temma Tanzer proposed a change in Arden's long standing financial routine which would call for each leaseholder to receive billing directly from the County Tax Office for the County and School tax on his leasehold improvements. Only the taxes attributable to his leased land would be billed to and paid, as usual, by the Trustees. These land taxes along with expenses of the Village would be billed to the leaseholders as rent according to assessment determined by an elected Board. Mrs. Holcomb and Tanzer think that this change would be within the meaning of the Arden Trust and leases.

Two Assessors, Enie and Shaw, agreed with the proposal in principle but withdrew their support after reaching the opinion that the change should be considered and acted on by Town Meeting or referendum.

Three other members, Brachman, Hewlett and Monfort, opposed this proposal thinking that it was incompatible with the leasehold agreements, incompatible with the letter and intent of the Arden Trust and that such action was outside the authority of the Board of Assessors. Monfort believed that an attempt to force this idea on the Village would result in expensive court action to obtain a final answer. Monfort invited the two incumbent Trustees (Shaul Gladstone and Joan Colgan) and the recent retiree (Cy Liberman) to an Assessors meeting at which the proposal was again presented for their comment.

The Trustees opinion at the time was that they probably could not accept the proposal because it did not appear to be in keeping with the trust nor with the leases and that using the idea would possibly constitute a failure to discharge properly the obligation of the Trustees to the Trust.

By a unanimous vote, the use of factors for woods and greens was discontinued but the 75% factor on commercial property is

to be continued.

The following definition for full rental value was unanimously passed:--reaffirm the definition of annual "Full Rental Value", as applied to Arden, to be the "net costs of the Village which are incurred for the benefit of and by the approval of the residents of Arden." These costs are expressed by the following considerations:

1. The amount of money required to pay the taxes levied on the Arden Trust and,
2. The amount the community desires to spend for its "standard of living" indicated by recent referenda and,
3. The amount needed, up to a maximum of \$50,000, to maintain a prudent reserve which will ensure the flexibility needed by the residents of the community in considering its next budget.

In considering the most logical ways to make equitable allocations of "full rental value" to the various leaseholds, the Board voted unanimously to expand the domicile rule idea to include our conclusion that the Village contributes certain appreciable rental values to the leaseholds which have nothing to do with the whole area of a lease but are (in general and without attempting as yet to consider each leasehold individually) most reasonably applied equally to the "first 6500 sq. ft. of each leasehold (the "A" rate). Additional domicile area on a given leasehold benefit to a lesser degree, than the first, from village contribution to rental value and therefore incur a lower rate (the "B" rate). Lastly, the area which is not "assigned" to domicile use merits a still lower rate (the "C" rate) because the community makes a smaller contribution to its rental value--as a matter of fact the community benefits to a certain degree from well tended "open" space in much the same way that all residents benefit from the open space of greens and woods.

The domicile rule, which was passed unanimously, states that the base rent for Arden leaseholds shall be the sum of:

- A. Rent for the "first 6500 sq. ft." times the "A" rate (whether or not the leasehold accomodates a domicile)
- B. Rent at the "B" rate for the remainder of the leasehold area but not exceeding 6500 sq. ft. for each additional domicile or not exceeding the area of the leasehold less 6500 whichever comes first. This rate applies only to leaseholds accomodating more than one domicile. The total area charged at the "B" rate plus the 6500 charged at the "A" rate shall not exceed the area of the leasehold,
- C. Rent at the "C" rate shall be charged for the area of the leasehold which is in excess of the sum of areas rented at the "A" and "B" rates.

The full rental value for Arden has increased over last year's because a surplus in the Civic Committee account was used then instead of new funds and now must be collected for 1987; because we need to provide for the possible \$10,000 voted by referendum for the contribution to the Montessori land; because appreciably lower available interest rates have reduced the income from short term investment of Arden's funds awaiting disbursement; to adjust for the income previously collected from woods and greens factors and to make up for possible loss of State or Federal Aid Funds.

The rates chosen by the committee for March 25, 1987 are:

"A" Rate	\$97.87	per M Sq Ft.
"B" Rate	\$60.35	" "
"C" Rate	\$36.11	" "

It is estimated that the above rates will raise about \$219,000 (about 20% more than needed last year) which, with \$5000 (est) from interest income, will meet unofficially expected expenses of about \$224,000.

The two public hearings were well attended, the subjects of new taxation method, adverse view on rent factors, garbage collection costs, fair assessment, itemized rent bills were discussed. These views were considered in our deliberations.

The Board recommends revision of section 7(e) of the "Act To Reincorporate The Village Of Arden" in some manner which will avoid inconclusive referendum results such as experienced in 1985. The difficulty hinges on the provision that both the Assessors' determination and the proposed alternate "rate" (if the latter is passed by a two-thirds majority of the September Town Meeting) must be subjected to referendum. The winner is determined by the one "that receives a majority approval of those eligible to vote." Because so many eligible voters don't vote, it's easy to have an inconclusive result. A suggested action would be to find out how to make a text change legally and then change it to: "The alternate proposal shall be subjected to referendum with final approval dependent on receiving a majority of the eligible voters" (other suggestions should be considered).

The Board recommends that the Registration Committee and the Trustees continue their strong effort to find domiciles that may not be paying their share of the rent.

The Board recommends that the various committees carefully limit expenditures and that the voting populace restrain its generosity by denying approval of projects that are not amply justified. A \$10,000 expenditure will raise the average leaseholders rent nearly \$50. Can the Budget Committee exercise more influence in limiting the amounts it submits to referendum?

The Board of Assessors does not authorize spending of money. Its only mission is to find satisfactory ways to allocate full rental value to the various leaseholds in compliance with the Arden Trust and the Trust Agreements with each leaseholder.

Discussion:

Does the domicile rate apply to an unoccupied domicile?
If a domicile is removed from the list it cannot be reinstated later. A domicile is a rentable space with its own kitchen and bath.

Why eliminate the greens and woods factors? Some people think that living on woods and greens is not a positive factor. People living on Marsh or Harvey Roads feel they have a negative factor. Therefore, it is reasonable to eliminate all factors.

Land rent will rise an average of 20%, but for most people (single domicile, smaller leaseholds) it will rise more sharply. This is due to the lower land rent on multiple domiciles and the big tax break being given large leaseholders.

Taxes for smaller leaseholders are larger because certain amenities are provided by the village for all leaseholds, regardless of size.

Why is there no comparison shown with last year's tax structure?

The Board of Assessors is addressing issues not properly within their domain. It is not this Board's job to: discover domiciles, restrict the budget, or propose changes in the "Act To Reincorporate".

Assessors Report Received.

Bill Press was elected Town Assembly Chairman. The vote was: Press - 59, Curtis - 25, S. Hamburger - 1.

Report on Proposed Change in Tax Procedure - Temma Tanzer & Ruth Holcomb

Reason for proposal:

We feel that it is unjust and a basic violation of human rights for Arden to take the taxes levied against specific leaseholders and redistribute them so they become the obligation of other leaseholders to pay.

Interpretations of the words "all State and local taxes" in Deed of Trust:

1. All taxes literally should include: income, corporate, sales, transfer, sewer, water and licenses such as: business, dogs, automobiles, wedding, etc. Some of these have been included in the past.
2. All taxes against land and leasehold improvements should include transfer, sewer and water. Is transfer tax sales tax? Are sewer and water taxes usage taxes?
3. All taxes levied against the Trust. The only logical interpretation - only owners of property can be held responsible for taxes on that property. The Trust does not own leasehold improvements. Taxes on improvements are levied against leaseholder, not the Trust.

Double taxation

Mortgage companies agree with interpretation #3 - collect all taxes levied against the leaseholder, both N.C.C. taxes and Arden land rent. No longer can your local banker (who may know Arden's procedures) make his own rules. FNMA guidelines must be met. "Full rental value of the land, excluding improvements" - wording in Lease

Leaseholders are paying far more than full rental value.

Assessors definition:

1. Money required to pay taxes levied against the Trust. Leasehold improvement taxes are not levied against the Trust and violate the words "excluding improvements" contained in the lease.
2. Amount community desires for its standard of living. This amount is much higher since the past years tax increase wiped out funds the Civic Committee had been accumulating for road work which now must be made up out of this year's assessment - a good part of the reason for the 20% increase.
3. Maintaining a prudent reserve of up to \$50,000. Less reserve would be needed under revised tax plan - must anticipate tax increases and 70% of the taxes are improvements taxes.

We are presently paying the full rental value of the land plus improvements, not excluding improvements. Arden has no legal right to take the taxes that New Castle County levies on specific individuals and redistribute them so that other individuals become responsible for paying them.

Henry George's Economic Philosophy

"Progress and Poverty", a 19th century 500+ page book which attempts to prove that by only taxing land and not taxing "the fruits of mans labor", the world will become free of poverty, famine, wars, depressions and all other ills of society. He talks about wages, profits, products, etc. as well as homes. It is an exciting and utopian theory. A valid experiments needs a full economic community within which: we would earn our living; manufacture the products we use; raise the food we need, buy and sell the same at our stores. A full self-contained economic community was part of the founding fathers vision as told to me by Hope Stephens Foote, Granddaughter of Frank Stephens, founder.

Sheep were raised here, farming was to flourish. Products were to be manufactured here (the Craft & Weaving Shops for example). Provisions were to be sold here (the Green Grocer). None of those things were to be taxed - only the land. It never happened, it can't happen now. We are zoned single family residential; residents would not like factories, sheep, cattle & swine, stores, hotels, parking lots, and MacDonalds ringing the green.

Therefore, Arden can never be a completely successful single tax experiment but we can remain true to Georgist Principles by taxing only the land, not the improvements. We are a charming village of unique homes, sheltered by woods from the 20th century suburban sprawl and peopled by a broad economic and philosophical cross-section of society who enjoy a sense of community and actively participate in our town meeting form of government. This is what makes Arden special. None of this will change by updating our taxing procedures to make them conform to 20th century law and justice. The real danger to our Arden way of life lies in the threat of long drawn out court cases which seem increasingly likely to be initiated by people seeking relief from unfair taxation. Wars have been fought over unjust taxation - remember the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

We have been told that our Arden people will ultimately favor or reject this proposed revision based on whether we are currently paying other peoples taxes or are having our taxes paid by others. There may be a handfull of "free loaders" in Arden but I believe that most of us here want to carry our own weight but resent being forced to pay the taxes levied against others. By signing an Arden land lease, we do not waive our rights to the protection of the laws of Delaware and the United States against being forced to pay other peoples' taxes. What we do promise to do is to pay the full rental value of the land excluding improvements. Our proposal is the most effective way to protect the Deed of Trust and Single Tax theory precisely because it excludes the improvements.

The report was interrupted at one point with the objection that the Advisory Committee had allotted this committee five minutes at this point in the agenda for a brief presentation with the understanding that they would call for a special Town Assembly to discuss the issue fully. The Chairman ruled that Advisory Committee could not legislate the Town Assembly agenda.

Moved by Temma Tanzer that this subject be included on the September Town Assembly agenda. It should be discussed in conjunction with the Assessors' report.

Discussion:

This is an important, time consuming issue and should be discussed at a special meeting. The Trustees have consulted with the town attorney at length on the matter and will have a long report to present. Mrs. Tanzer and Mrs. Holcomb do not want a special meeting during the summer fearing that heat and vacation schedules will interfere with full attendance.

The motion was tabled. It will be considered under New Business.

Audit - James Schwaber

The report was just received from the auditor at 7:30 this evening. The committee has not had a chance to fully review it, they will make a complete report at the September meeting. A

quick look reveals that there were no large budget overruns. The Civic reserve is \$26,716. The Trustees' reserve is \$32,700 (down from \$47,200 last year).

Budget - Ruth Holcomb

This committee's report is due at the September meeting. The committee feels it is illogical to have the Assessors' report precede the budget report and has asked the Advisory Committee to change the date of the budget report to coincide with the Assessors' report.

Bill Press reminded the committee that the Town Charter mandates when reports are due.

Only four committees have responded to the committee's request for estimated budgetary needs for 87/88.

Buzz Ware Village Center - Cy Liberman

The heating system (costing \$26,700) is almost complete. Remaining jobs are: 1) the installation of two more valves in the boiler (required by the boiler inspector) and 2) supplemental heat in the office area.

The Bicentennial Improvement Fund has granted Arden's request for \$5,900 in matching funds for roofing and insulation. The roofing will be replaced only on Arden's building, not on the modules.

Discussion:

Can the Civic Committee submit a request for Bicentennial funds? The funds are only for building improvements and must be related to the bicentennial. The Spring House would be the only possibility.

Civic - Gene Shaw, Summer Chairman

Bob Osborne has agreed not to spray poison ivy on the Green but will pull it. We may have to spray in future.

We had a meeting on June 2 with Mr. Askins, an environmentalist from the Conservation Dept. Along with committee members, the meeting was attended by Ethel Monfort, Ed Rohrbach, Dorsey Lebeis and Greg Condiff. The meeting was to identify specific problems and generate some alternatives in the Memorial Grove. We also addressed fact finding on how to solve problems of erosion in the Memorial Garden area. Anyone interested may contact Leon Tanzer for further details.

is replacing the gas main along the entire Arden section of Harvey Rd. this summer. Rep. Gwynne Smith is watching that this work be completed before the road project starts.

An ad hoc committee to form a liaison between the Division of Highways and individual leaseholders along Harvey Rd. has been tentatively discussed with the Civic Committee. A further report and more specific plans will be presented to the Town Assembly in September.

The Baldini/YMCA affair appears headed for a satisfactory resolution. WMA expects to settle with the Y on Aug. 15. Baldini is out of the picture, although his deed restrictions will linger on for some years. Fund raising will start in Oct. to pay for both the land and a school building. WMA Board of Directors and Mrs. Marie Dugan have never seen the other half of the land WMA is buying. This is the part that will be transferred to Ardencroft as parkland. I have offered to conduct them on a walking tour of the other half. The date is July 1 at 9 AM starting at the BWVC. Everyone is welcome.

The woods clean-up went well this year. We thank all volunteers who turned out. We discovered further work is needed at Indian Circle. A great deal of broken glass litter must be sifted out of the soil. We plan to do this some weekend in July. Volunteers should report their names to us so they can be notified of the date.

The Council of Civic Associations of Brandywine Hundred has an Arden representative again. Steve Tanzer is working with their zoning committee. \$15 annual dues has been placed in the budget.

Discussion:

When will the town need to pay the \$10,000? We don't know yet. Ardentown is contributing \$10,000, Ardencroft \$20,000 and Windybush is sure they can raise the money.

Should the \$10,000 be included in the 87/88 budget? The referendum expected the money to be spent before the 87/88 budget goes into effect. In that case it would come out of the town reserve fund. If the \$10,000 is not advanced before March 25, 1987 it could be a budget line item but could not be voted down since it has already been approved by referendum.

WMA will hold title to the parkland for mortgage reasons but there is a legally binding deed restriction. Don't we need an agreement in writing with WMA to protect us in case WMA sells the property? The committee assured the Assembly they would not hand over the money until they are convinced of WMA's good planning.

The front part of the YMCA land is zoned commercial but WMA does not intend to use the land for anything but a school.

Playground - Larry Walker

During the past quarter, the required playground equipment inspections were made. All equipment is in sound condition. Necessary repairs were completed. The committee has contracted with Knotts Construction to have two park benches installed. One will be on Sherwood Green, the other on the Village Green near the baseball backstop.

In May, two members of the Playground Committee resigned. In the March 1986 Town election, Bob Jones was the last defeated candidate; he has agreed to serve out one of the terms until March, 1987. Al Marks has agreed to serve out the other term

until March 1987. We intend to nominate these two residents later in the meeting under New Business so we will have town approval for these committee member changes.

Registration - Sally Hamburger, Secretary, for Virginia Shaw
(in hospital)

There are 387 eligible voters as of tonight's meeting. 17 new voters have been added since the March meeting, 23 names were removed.

The committee has conducted two referenda since the last meeting. The referendum to approve the expenditure of \$10,000 to be used toward the purchase of YMCA land and the preservation of parkland in cooperation with Ardentown, Ardencroft, Windybush and WMA received 311 ballots from 394 eligible voters. The vote was: 223 - yea, 87 - nay, 1 invalid. The referendum was passed. The referendum for confirmation of the Trustee's nomination of Sally Hamburger received 270 valid ballots from 391 eligible voters. I unfortunately have no hard figures on this referendum tonight since Virginia was not able to get me the report due to illness. The referendum was defeated.

At its March meeting, the Town Assembly moved to count voters eligible to vote in a referendum as of the ballot-due date rather than the ballot-mailing date. Though there were no members of the committee on the Assembly floor when the motion was passed (they were counting the committee election) and though the Act to Re-incorporate states "The Registration Committee shall supervise all referenda and shall fix rules and regulations for the proper and orderly conduct thereof", the committee used this procedure for the last two referenda. Problems arose concerning people who moved suddenly during the period between the ballot-mailing and the ballot-due dates. The Registration Committee feels that though eligibility on the ballot-due date is ostensible logical, it causes problems. They plan to return to the system of counting eligible voters as of the ballot-mailing date in order to have a firmer grasp of the eligible voters list.

Discussion:

The town must address the issue of non-voting eligible voters. Could we change the charter to enable the Registration Committee to ask residents if they wish to be on the eligible voters list? The Ad Hoc Committee hopes that the proposed mailing of Town Assembly minutes will help this situation.

Safety - Tom Colgan

The police have been very active with radar on Harvey Rd., which we are most appreciative.

Our calls for County police to investigate illegal parking, noise, etc. appear to be promptly answered. Please call 911 if you need police assistance for any reason. It is helpful, but not necessary, to give your name.

We have requested the State to install a "no turn on red" sign at the Harvey & Marsh Rd. intersection. Turns on a red light onto Harvey constitute a serious hazard.

We have yet to complete one piece of business; that is to have the State review and approve our traffic signs. We hope this will be completed soon.

A "no-parking" sign was installed at the entrance to the Arden woods at the foot of Cherry Lane.

Discussion:

Does the one-way traffic restriction on upper Sherwood apply

to residents? The sign was originally erected to prevent traffic from entering the intersection, but should apply to residents as well.

Ad Hoc Committee on Town Assembly - Don Berman

Charge: to generate ideas for presentation to the June 1986 Town Assembly on ways to create greater efficiency in the town assembly process.

Committee: Don Berman, Gail Rinehart, Hugh Roberts, Virginia Shaw, Paul Thompson, Elizabeth Varley Walker.

Discussion Schedule:

June: Introduction & Philosophy. Discussion on dissemination of information.

September: Implementation of dissemination of information concepts if approved at June meeting. Discussion on structural changes.

January: Implementation of structural changes if approved at September meeting. Discussion on Parliamentary Committee. Nominations for Parliamentary Committee if approved.

March: Discussion on documentation of town affairs. Formation of committee to proceed with documentation of town affairs if approved.

The Town Meeting, in considering the length of the assembly sessions and the communication process therein, gave mandate to the Ad Hoc Committee to reflect on and consider change that would address these issues. The process of change can elicit profound feeling of concern. It is with this in mind that the committee has gone about its task.

In general terms we had two special concerns. First, we were grappling with the possibility of change in things that may be so precious as to be considered sacrosanct. The notions of freedom of speech, fair representation, heritage, and tradition, are often appreciated with great value. The maintainance of these things remained foremost in our awareness during our reflections. Second, we were aware of the difficulty of adequately communicating our thoughts and recommendations to the town so as to accurately reflect the above.

Our hope is that these recommendations will be seen to be in the service of enhancing communication and bringing about greater efficiency not as a manner of limiting those things we hold dear.

The committee has met 7 times since the January Town Meeting. The meetings held much thoughtful discussion and learning for us. It is with all of this in mind that we as the Village assemblage ^{are} to consider the following. _{asked.}

Dissemination of Information

Time may be saved and the quality of the town meetings improved if townspeople are better informed and prepared prior to the Town Assembly. This may be accomplished by distributing the minutes of the previous meeting, proposed motions, and other pertinent information along with the agenda and meeting notice.

Our suggestion is to print a flyer with the above information to be distributed in place of the current meeting notice and agenda. The print will be about 25% smaller, about the size of newsprint, to accomodate the one sheet format. Approximately 280 copies will be distributed and 70 copies available at the town meeting for those who do not bring their copies. In addition,

several regular size copies will be available.

Current expenditures for printing minutes & notices & for postage - \$89.80. Expenditures for printing, folding & mailing the proposed flyer - \$120.65.

It may be possible to find a towns person who will deliver the flyer for the difference between the current costs and the new printing costs, approximately \$30, which will create a breakeven situation on costs.

Moved that the Town Assembly adopt the above discussion schedule.

Motion passed.

Moved that the Town Assembly adopt a Dissemination of Information proposal.

Discussion:

The committee feels that more people will attend town meetings if they know what is going on.

The cost of disseminating information will be higher than indicated if the minutes run to more than one page as they often do. The Registration Committee will overrun its budget and need to dip into the contingency fund.

Could the minutes be distributed with the Arden Page? This important information should be mailed.

Can the minutes be printed quickly enough to be mailed in time to satisfy the Sunshine Law? Should Advisory Committee meet 3 weeks before Town Assembly to allow time for the agenda to be prepared? This is not a problem if the agenda is printed on a separate sheet. The meeting schedule for the Advisory Committee will be addressed at a later meeting.

Bill Press suggested the mailing be signed by the Town Assembly Chairman and the Advisory Committee Chairman.

Motion passed.

Old Business

Does the Town Assembly still wish to pay the \$250 donation to Hanby Corners?

This donation was approved by referendum in the 86/87 budget. At that time Hanby Corners was still seeking to become a fire company. Since then, their request to become a fire company has been denied by the State; they are now petitioning to become an ambulance company.

Tony Colgan and Barnes King explained that Hanby Corners feels this district needs an ambulance service; Claymont misses many calls. There is a paramedic service located at Marsh & Naamans but they only answer life-threatening calls and still have to call an ambulance if one is needed. Hanby Corners currently has \$450 in their treasury; they are counting on Arden's donation to help with their attorney costs.

Donation approved.

Guidelines for procedures if Town Assembly officials cannot perform their duties. - Don Berman, Advisory Committee Chairman

The Advisory Committee was asked to address this issue by motion of the March Town Assembly. The committee felt the real concern was

what to do if the Town Assembly Chairman is not available to convene the meeting. The following order of conveners is proposed: 1) Advisory Chairman 2) Senior Trustee 3) Town Assembly Secretary 4) Town Assembly Treasurer. The first order of business will be to elect a chairman for the meeting.

Discussion:

What about having a Deputy Chairman? The Advisory Committee Chairman is sometimes referred to as the Deputy Chairman.

If any other assembly official is absent, the Chairman can appoint a replacement.

Moved that the Town Assembly adopt the proposed guideline.

Motion passed.

The Trustees were asked to publish a current land rent list.

Shaul replied that the Trustees are still attempting to resolve some discrepancies, but will have a list out before the September meeting. The list is always available for perusal at Rae's office.

New Business

Tanzer request for permission to park on the Pond Rd. firelane next to his leasehold.

Leon explained that he originally paved the lane, lining it up with the firelane on the other side of the road and with an indentation on his leasehold. Since then, he and the Monforts have had their leasehold resurveyed; Leon found he had been paying land rent on the town gutter.

This lane is used by few vehicles, but there is plenty of room for them if the Tanzers park their 3 cars on the right hand side.

Leon suggested that interested residents, especially members of Community Planning Committee, look at the situation. There is no hurry about this request.

Temma Tanzer moved to have placed on the agenda for the September Town meeting the approval of the tax revision proposal to advise the incoming Board of Assessors to consider this decision for the tax year 1988/89.

Discussion:

This subject was exhaustively studied by a special committee ten years ago, including a special town meeting. The idea died. Why should we spend more time on it?

Mike Curtis proposed a formal debate with the Henry George School of Social Science on the subject of single tax. Mrs. Tanzer declined, preferring a discussion on the subject at hand.

This subject is too lengthy to include on the September agenda; it needs a special meeting. Having a meeting during the summer is unacceptable, too many people will not attend.

Motion defeated: 23 aye, 37 nay.

John Austin moved that a Special Town Assembly be called on the third Monday in October to discuss the tax revision proposal.

Motion passed: 32 aye, 24 nay.

Larry Walker moved that the Assembly approve Robert Jones and Al Marks to serve the two unexpired terms on the Playground Committee.

Motion passed.

Good and Welfare

It was suggested that the town invest in a microphone so speakers can be heard at future meetings.

Please bring your mailed minutes to the September Town Assembly to save on duplicating costs.

Siralo Hamburger
Secretary